



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5431

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 1877

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Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS
INVOLVING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2010, the
2 Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
3 Commissioner of Public Health, shall submit a plan, in accordance
4 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
5 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
6 matters relating to human services and public health concerning the
7 health of infants born prematurely to a person who is a Medicaid
8 recipient. Such plan shall include recommendations to: (1) Improve
9 hospital discharge plans for such infants, (2) monitor the health of such
10 infants for a period of six months after discharge from the hospital,
11 and (3) ensure that the infant receives adequate health care services
12 after the infant's discharge in order to reduce incidents of
13 rehospitalization.

14 Sec. 2. Subsection (u) of section 46b-231 of the general statutes is
15 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
16 *1, 2010*):

17 (u) (1) The Department of Social Services may in IV-D cases (A)
18 bring petitions for support orders pursuant to section 46b-215, (B)
19 obtain acknowledgments of paternity, (C) bring applications for show
20 cause orders pursuant to section 46b-172, (D) file agreements for
21 support with the assistant clerk of the Family Support Magistrate
22 Division, (E) issue withholding orders entered by the Superior Court
23 or a family support magistrate in accordance with subsection (b) of
24 section 52-362, and (F) upon notice to the obligor and obligee, redirect
25 payments for the support of any child receiving child support
26 enforcement services either to the state of Connecticut or to the present
27 custodial party, as their interests may appear, for distribution in
28 accordance with Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, provided neither
29 the obligor nor the obligee objects in writing within ten business days
30 from the mailing date of such notice, and provided further that any
31 such notice shall be sent by first class mail to the most recent address
32 of such obligor and obligee, as recorded in the state case registry
33 pursuant to section 46b-218, and a copy of such notice shall be filed
34 with the court or family support magistrate if both the obligor and
35 obligee fail to object to the redirected payments within ten business
36 days from the mailing date of such notice.

37 (2) The Department of Social Services shall provide notice not less
38 than once every three years to the parents subject to a support order in
39 a IV-D case informing the parents of their right to request a review
40 under subdivision (4) of subsection (s) of this section. Such notice shall
41 specifically inform such parents of their right to request a review in the
42 event that (A) a parent is incarcerated, or (B) there has been a
43 substantial change in a parent's employment status resulting in a lower
44 rate of pay.

45 Sec. 3. Section 17b-749c of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

47 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
48 Commissioner of Education, shall establish a program, within

49 available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive basis,
50 supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day
51 care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to
52 section 10-16p and section 10-16u. Child day care providers and school
53 readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality
54 enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the
55 Commissioner of Social Services prescribes.

56 (b) Priority for such grants shall be given to programs that are: (1)
57 Included in a local school readiness plan; (2) full-day, year-round
58 programs; and (3) accredited, as defined in subdivision (4) of
59 subsection (a) of section 10-16p.

60 (c) The grants shall be used to:

61 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National
62 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
63 accreditation;

64 (2) Help directors and administrators to obtain training;

65 (3) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
66 health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition,
67 family support services, parent education, literacy and parental
68 involvement, and community and home outreach programs; and
69 provide information concerning access when needed to a speech and
70 language therapist;

71 (4) Purchase educational equipment;

72 (5) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early
73 childhood education or child development;

74 (6) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined
75 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a
76 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
77 are defined in such federal regulations;

78 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
79 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
80 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
81 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

82 (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes and
83 other providers of care for children;

84 (9) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

85 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

86 (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
87 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
88 and 17b-749i;

89 (12) Establish a single point of entry system;

90 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to
91 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
92 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children
93 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used
94 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives
95 to promote staff retention, preliteracy development, parent
96 involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

97 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall ensure that
98 supplemental quality enhancement grant funds are made available not
99 later than August first, annually, to child day care providers and
100 school readiness programs that are awarded such grants.

101 Sec. 4. Section 17b-791 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes
102 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
103 *1, 2010*):

104 The Department of Social Services shall establish a supplemental
105 nutrition commodities assistance program to provide funds for the

106 purchase of high protein or other nutritionally beneficial supplemental
 107 foods, or both, for soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency
 108 shelters. Such foods shall be purchased in bulk by the Connecticut
 109 Food Bank through in-state wholesalers or brokers, or both, and
 110 allotted to existing soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency
 111 shelters in accordance with the established policies of the Connecticut
 112 Food Bank. Such soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters
 113 shall pay a handling charge [of five cents per pound] that is not more
 114 than the handling charge established by the Feeding America network
 115 of food banks in order to cover the costs incurred by the Connecticut
 116 Food Bank. The food shall be distributed free of charge by the soup
 117 kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	46b-231(u)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	17b-749c
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	17b-791

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Social Services to develop a plan to improve health care for premature infants, to provide notice to child support obligors in Title IV-D cases of their right to request review of a child support order in the event of incarceration or change in employment, to require the Commissioner of Social Services to make supplemental quality enhancement grant funds available to child care providers by August first each year, and to change the food bank handling charge.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]